

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Confirmation No. 9216**  
Tadamasa TOMA et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2006\_0843A  
Serial No. 10/581,910 : Group Art Unit 2621  
Filed June 7, 2006

PICTURE CODING APPARATUS  
AND PICTURE DECODING  
APPARATUS

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the instant application, please enter and consider the following amendments and remarks as follows: